

LIFE'S APPS
"THE PRAYER APP"
Pastor Chuck Wysong
January 8, 2012

WHY DON'T PEOPLE PRAY MORE?

1. Not sure you know how to pray
2. Get bored or distracted while trying to pray
3. Think your requests are too small for God
4. Not sure your prayers will make a difference

- **PRAYER IS COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**

"Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:1-3

TALK TO GOD

1. WITH GUT-LEVEL HONESTY

"Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all." Exodus 5:22-23

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men... And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." Matthew 6:5, 7

2. ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS TO YOU

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

3. CONTINUALLY

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray

Until

Something

Happens

"As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard." 1 Samuel 1:12-13

4. AND LISTEN FOR HIS RESPONSE

"And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave." 1 Kings 19:12b-13

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10 (ten being the highest), how would you rate your prayer life this last week?
2. Describe how you communicate with God. What is effective and meaningful to you?
3. What is your biggest current prayer need? Spend time praying together.

TIME WITH GOD

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Memory Verse: *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." John 17:20,21b*

Monday

Read John 17:11-19. What part of the message this past weekend hit home for you?

*Jesus prayed for **you** just hours before his crucifixion (Jesus says so specifically in verse 20) and prays for you even now in heaven. How does that impact you? What difference should that make in your daily life?*

Which of the four points from the message did you really need to hear the most at this point in your life?

We can know we are praying in God's will when we pray the prayer Jesus prayed!

Tuesday

Read John 17:20-23. Jesus starts and ends his prayer for us with a plea for unity. When is living in unity with your Christian brothers and sisters particularly hard for you?

How can you contribute to the "complete unity" Jesus prays for here?

According to these verses, what will happen when we live in complete unity?

What kind of unity exists between the Father and Jesus that we should copy?

Ask God today to show you if there are any relationships you need to work on so that you can be part of the answer to the prayer of Jesus.

Wednesday

Read John 17:15 again, as well as John 10:27-29 and Luke 12:4-6. What do these verses teach about God's protection of you?

Jesus is not saying God will protect us from any harm. He himself came to harm on the cross! So, according to these verses, what kind of protection from God is Jesus speaking of?

How has God protected you in your past, and how will God protect you in your future?

Thank God today for His protection for you. Think of a way that He has specifically protected you and praise Him for it. Think of His protection for your soul eternally and praise Him for that!

Thursday

Read John 18. What particularly impressed you as you read this today?

How does Jesus' decision to "drink the cup" help you in your obedience to God? There are times when all of us are like Peter. Yet Jesus died for his sins, even as Peter was denying Him! Thank God today for His mercy for you, too!

Friday

Again today I'll ask you to read a longer portion of Scripture. Read John 19. What are you particularly impressed with as you read this today? "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." John 17:20,21b

As you spend time in prayer today, picture yourself at the foot of the cross.

What do you see and hear as you look at Christ?

At the people around you? Spend time talking to Jesus today about His sacrifice for you. If you have not yet personally told God that you receive this sacrifice as His gift to you, why not do so today?

Saturday

Please pray the prayer of Christ for our church today. Pray that the Easter services will be anointed by God. Pray for opportunities to invite people to Easter services this weekend!